



Chapter 5: Frequently Asked Questions

- *Is the plastic Exit bag really necessary. Why not use a face-mask to deliver the inert gas?*

Common inexpensive facemasks are often used to deliver oxygen to patients. They are usually held in place by elastic to cover the nose and mouth and oxygen is delivered through a plastic tube attached to the base of the mask. There is no attempt to seal the mask and face; the purpose is simply to increase the concentration of oxygen breathed above the usual 21%.

The Exit Bag produces rapid loss of consciousness by ensuring that NO oxygen is inhaled. To achieve this using a mask, flow delivery flow rates of at least 20 litres/sec would be required to reduce the chance of oxygen contamination during inspiration (ie 100x that necessary with the Exit Bag!).

While technically possible, a large diameter deliver hose would be needed along with gas source very much greater than the 420 litre Balloon Time cylinders. Risky and not recommended.

- *Do I need to connect two Balloon Time Helium cylinders to ensure sufficient gas is available?*

No, this is not necessary if the flow of gas is regulated using a flow control. With the flow regulated, even the smaller (250 litre) cylinder will provide sufficient gas flow to ensure no build up of carbon dioxide in the bag for at least 15 minutes (Fig 5.4), more than enough time for a peaceful death.

If the tube is to be connected directly to the cylinder with no gas flow regulation (other than the cylinder on/off tap), multiple cylinders should be employed.